

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/088767 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A23L 1/0524. (74) Agents: REID, John, Mackay et al.; Abel & Imray, 20
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/01657

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,

(22) International Filing Date: 17 April 2003 (17.04.2003)

AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(26) Publication Language: English

Published:

(30) Priority Data:
0208999.3 19 April 2002 (19.04.2002) GB

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

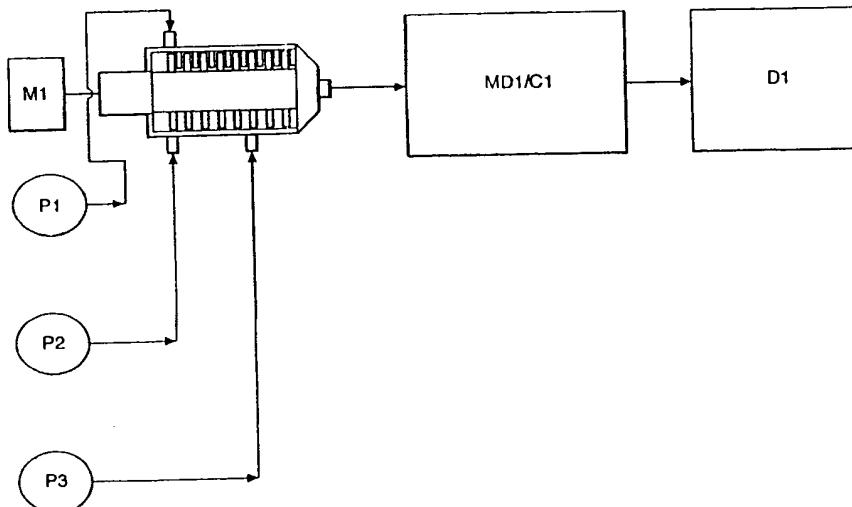
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[Continued on next page]

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(54) Title: ALGINATE OR LOW-METHOXY PECTATE GEL



WO 03/088767 A1

(57) Abstract: Our invention provides a highly convenient process and equipment which can be used to prepare alginate or low-methoxy pectate gels on site e.g. where the product is to be used. The process comprises making a sol in an in-line dynamic mixer, then introducing gelling ions, e.g. calcium ions, into the sol in the mixer and immediately subsequently allowing the sol to gel. The equipment consists of an in-line dynamic mixer with feed points for the alginate or low-methoxy pectate and water spaced sufficiently apart from a feed point for a source of gelling ions such that the sol is formed before it comes into contact with the gelling ions. The process can be used to prepare gelled particles for use as feed for live stock as well as to produce gels containing e.g. meat or fruit. A particular use is to produce feed containing sensitive ingredients e.g. live bacteria.

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